

AFFIDAVIT OF L. P.

STATE OF NEW YORK)
) ss:s.
 COUNTY OF ROCKLAND)

L. P., having been duly sworn, hereby states and deposes under pains and penalties of perjury the following:

1. I make this affidavit to my own personal knowledge.
2. This is a very difficult letter to write, because who wants to relive the pain of every excruciating fear-filled day since a night in mid-December when I found out that my daughter would no longer be able to go to school each day, and that, from now on, we were “excluded”—outcasts from her class, and that our former privacy was completely torn away, leaving my private constitutionally-guaranteed choice as a parent, glaringly public, for the community to see and judge.
3. I am a special needs Waldorf teacher and a single mom to an only child. My nine-year-old daughter and I are new to the community, having left my job of the last five years at the Princeton Waldorf School to come to Chestnut Ridge so that both my daughter and I could belong to a larger and more inclusive community. A huge factor in our move was finding my daughter a larger third grade Waldorf class (such as GMWS) where she would have more opportunity for friendships since she is an only child and we formerly lived with my parents, about 45 minutes away from our school in Princeton. Additionally, I hoped to belong to a more welcoming and tight-knit faculty, as the Otto Specht School (the special needs Waldorf school where I teach) had been, prior to this exclusion.
4. I do not receive child support for my child, and we have no relatives or prior friends in the area. In the fall, if my nine-year-old child was sick and needed to stay home from third grade, I stayed home with her. I cannot afford time off from work from a new job, and I’m a teacher at a small private school for children with special needs. I am needed every single day to be with my class.
5. In this context, I did not have extra money to spend on baby-sitting or tutors. Can you imagine a very shy child, who spent most of September and October alone at school, finally coming to find friends and a comfort level throughout November, only to be pulled from her new class of three

months for an exclusion lasting longer than her inclusion? Unfortunately, I can, and it's been heart-breaking. Now my daughter doesn't even want to see her friends—she didn't want to go to her class's offsite Valentine party... she says things like “everyone hates me,” “no one wants to play with me,” “I don't get to run any more at recess and now I won't be fast anymore and no one will like me....” She has tear-filled breakdowns now all too-frequently. She wants to go back to her old class in Princeton, but I left my job, and I can't return now. All the positives about our move that I was trying to cultivate for my daughter have been swept away. Now our new home represents loneliness and exclusion. It represents her mama: tired, snapping, often biting back outright tears.

6. In addition to the above factors, I chose this community because I am a trained Waldorf teacher. I learned about anthroposophy, the underlying philosophy of Waldorf schools, from my sister just after the birth of my daughter. (My sister chose to homeschool her children and she too chose not to vaccinate as it would violate her religious beliefs). I took two years of foundation classes, and three years of course study to become a trained Waldorf teacher. I began this journey explicitly for my daughter's sake.

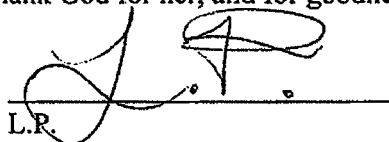
7. Perhaps unlike some parents who come to Waldorf schools for the wonderful outward manifestations of this education, I come to Waldorf schools due to a deep respect for anthroposophy. A very basic tenet of anthroposophy is that children are spiritual beings who come to this earth having chosen a particular parent or set of parents. They come to earth closely connected to the spiritual world. They come with gifts already in their nature—the teacher's job is to merely remove impediments to their expression. This charge goes forth to parents as well. Based on anthroposophy, each of us has specific bodies, and the physical body is only one of four: physical, etheric, astral and the ego. In the formative years of a child's life, this spiritual being needs careful tending and nurturing to fully enter into each of these bodies and merge them together.

8. It is my deeply held spiritual belief that my daughter chose me prior to birth to help usher her through life in this incarnation. I cannot know what my daughter's past lives were nor what her future lives will be, but I do believe in God and karma. I know that after death I will have to see all of my

mistakes and misteps played back to me in painful detail. I also know that my daughter's successful intergration into her body and her life on earth will be taken back as food to the spiritual world. I am charged with protecting my daughter, and allowing anything foreign to be injected into her bloodstream is certainly a violation of this protection. For each of her bodies to properly take hold, she must not have manmade substances blocking the natural organization or her organism.

9. For us, childhood illnesses are a part of this integration of bodies and this coming into earth. The spiritual world has entrusted me to care for my daughter. It is clearly a violation of my sincere God-fearing spiritual beliefs to vaccinate my daughter.

10. But now I feel outcast and vilified and the catalyst for this is the challenged order. Parents are frightened; I am frightened. I have not slept well in three months. My daughter wakes up with night terrors on a regular basis now. I am close to tears at least once a day. I am outraged by a system that has no respect for my First Amendment rights. Still I remain strong in my religious convictions because I must protect my daughter, as God and the spiritual world charge. I must allow her unfettered growth. I must not allow anything to get in the way of her communion with her angel and the spiritual world. I pray nightly with my daughter, and thank God for her, and for goodness, fairness, and kindness in this world.


L.P.

SIGNED AND SWORN TO BEFORE ME THIS _ DAY OF MARCH 2019.


NOTARY PUBLIC

MY COMMISSION EXPIRES:

MICHAEL HOWARD SUSSMAN
Notary Public, State of New York
No. 02SU6332584
Qualified in Orange County
Commission Expires Nov. 09, 2019